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Area Under Opium Cultivation

6069. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under opium cultivation in the country has decreased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the extent of decline, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the quality of Indian opium is inferior to that of other countries; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The licensed area under Opium Cultivation during the crop years 1988-89, 1989-90 in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was as under:-

	1988-89	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
	(Figures are in Hectares)		
Madhya Pradesh	7112	7102	7067
Rajasthan	4878	4873	4814
Uttar Pradesh	3258	2631	2879
Total	15,248	14,606	14,760

Production of Opium in India is mainly export oriented. Our exports of opium have, however, been adversely affected on account of emergence of alternate cheaper raw material i.e. concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS). Commission on Narcotic Drugs and International Narcotics Control Board (UN agencies) have expressed their concern about stocks of opium held by India. In order to meet the situation of mounting stocks of opium during the last one decade or so and to stop further additions to it, one of the measures taken by the Government was to reduce progressively area under poppy cultivation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

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Loans from Japan

6070. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans obtained by the Union Government from the Government of Japan during the last six months and the purpose for which it was obtained; and

(b) the terms and conditions including the rate of interest thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). During the last six months Government of Indian have signed four loan agreements with the Government of Japan as detailed under:-